

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 55-73 and 90-114 were pending in the application. Claims 8, 18, 62, 72, 90-101, and 110 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 7, 11, 17, 55, 61, 65, 71, 102, 103, and 109 were amended. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 9-17, 55-61, 63-71, 73, 102-109, and 111-114 are now pending in the present application.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 9-12, 14-15, 55-56, 58-59, 63-66, 68-69, 73, 90-93, 95, 100, 102-104, 106-107 and 111-114 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Powell Jr., et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,896,516) (hereinafter 'Powell Jr.') in view of Foster et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,038,630) (Hereinafter 'Foster') and in further view of judicial notice and MPEP §2144.04 on the plurality of elements. In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicant believes this rejection to now be moot.

Claims 3, 13, 57, 67, 94 and 105 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Powell Jr. in view of Foster, in further view of judicial notice and MPEP §2144.04 and in further view of Berglund et al. (U.S. Patent Number 4,258,417) (hereinafter 'Berglund'). In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicant believes this rejection to now be moot.

Claims 6, 16, 60, 70, and 108 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Powell Jr. in view of Foster, in further view of judicial notice and MPEP §2144.04 and in further view of Bitner et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,210,829) (hereinafter 'Bitner'). In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicant believes this rejection to now be moot.

Claims 7, 17, 61, 71, 95, 96-100 and 109 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Powell Jr. in view of Foster, in further view of judicial notice and MPEP §2144.04 and in further view of Schlotterer et al. (U.S. Patent Number 4,130,864) (hereinafter 'Schlotterer'). In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicant believes this rejection to now be moot.

The Examiner indicated that claims 8, 18, 62, 72 and 110 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would allowable if rewritten in independent from including all the imitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include features similar to the features recited in original claim 8. Accordingly, claim 1 now additionally recites

“wherein each merge and interleave unit includes:

a priority generator for each input sorting unit capable of generating a composite request priority from a plurality of characteristics of the access requests and a plurality of operational characteristics;
a priority compare circuit capable of selecting one access request;
a request multiplexer controlled by the priority compare circuit to output the selected access request;
a plurality of programmable registers;
a decode unit receiving the selected request from the request multiplexer to determine whether the selected request is a register operation and, if so, to send a plurality of control and data signals to the registers; and
an output multiplexer for combining register read data with request data for output.”

Applicant believes that claim 1, along with its dependent claims, patentably distinguishes over the cited art.

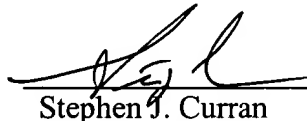
Similarly, Applicant has amended claim 11, 55, 65, and 102 to include the features similar to the features recited in original claims 18, 62, 72 and 110, respectively. Applicant believes that claims 11, 55, 65, and 102, along with their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-48300/SJC.

Respectfully submitted,



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